

**Act 1062 of 2017: Extended Recess Pilot Program
Frequently Asked Questions**

1. When will the pilot be implemented?

The extended recess pilot program will be conducted during the 2018-19 school year. The program will be implemented for one school year. The Commissioner of Education has the option to extend the pilot program for one year.

2. Can all schools in my district participate?

All schools serving students in Kindergarten through Grade 6 may apply to participate in the pilot program. 32 schools will be selected to participate. Two schools per educational cooperative area and two schools from Pulaski County will be selected for the pilot program. School officials may choose to extend physical activity time for all schools in the district, even if they are not included in the pilot program.

3. Are all grades/classes in the school required to participate, or can I select specific grades and/or classes?

If a school is selected to participate, all students in that school in Kindergarten through Grade 6 must participate.

4. Can a school in academic distress apply to participate in the pilot?

All schools serving students in Kindergarten through Grade 6 are eligible to apply. However, the State Board of Education will be the approving authority for any necessary waivers a school may request in order to participate.

5. What is “unstructured physical activity”?

Unstructured physical activity is active time in which students are not required to engage in a specific activity. Games and physical activity equipment are typically provided. Even though children are undirected in their choice of activity, an adult is needed to supervise.

6. Can schools increase Physical Education time as part of the pilot program?

No. Act 1062 specifically states that the additional physical activity time must be unstructured physical activity. The school must still provide the required minimum of 40 minutes per week of Physical Education.

7. How much unstructured physical activity time must be provided as part of the pilot program?

Act 1062 specifies that a minimum of 60 minutes per day of unstructured physical activity is to be provided to students in Kindergarten through Grade 4. A minimum of 45 minutes per day of unstructured physical activity is to be provided to students in grades 5 and 6. Physical Education instruction time cannot be counted toward the total unstructured physical activity time per day required for the pilot.

8. Are programs and resources such as Go Noodle and Yoga for Kids allowed to be used to provide the additional physical activity time?

No. Students should have the flexibility to select an activity of their choosing during the time allowed through the pilot program. Games and physical activity equipment may be provided, as long as students are not required to engage in specific activities.

9. Must the physical activity time offered be during the school day?

Yes. The unstructured physical activity time must be offered during the school day. Time allowed for physical activity before school and in after school care cannot be counted toward the total time required for the pilot program.

10. How do I apply?

Applications must be submitted online at: http://uark.qualtrics.com/recess_pilot. The supporting documents, a draft of the school's daily schedule for the 2018-19 school year and a signed Statement of Assurances page should be submitted by March 16, 2018.

11. Will schools be able to apply for waivers in order to participate in the pilot program?

Yes. Schools selected to participate in the pilot program will have an opportunity to apply for necessary waivers. The State Board of Education will be the approving authority for any necessary waivers a school may request in order to participate.

12. When will schools be notified that they have been selected to participate in the pilot program?

Schools selected to participate in the pilot program will be notified no later than April 6, 2018.

13. The application states that a draft daily schedule must be submitted. What do I do if the schedule changes before the 2018-19 school year begins?

The schedule submitted with the application is only a draft. A final copy of a pilot school's daily schedule will be due no later than August 17, 2018.

14. What type of reporting is required and how often?

Pilot schools will be required to complete a brief survey within the first two weeks of the 2018-19 school year, and at the end of each nine weeks thereafter. These surveys will be submitted electronically to the Arkansas Department of Education.

15. Who will be required to complete reports?

Each classroom teacher, at least one school administrator, and any other staff supervising recess time will be required to complete brief surveys. These surveys will be submitted electronically to the Arkansas Department of Education.

16. How can I get more information on this pilot project?

An informational webinar will be held on February 13, 2018 at 10:00 am. To connect to the webinar, click on the link provided. Webinar participation is not required for application. This will be the only webinar provided prior to the application deadline. Please click the following link to register for the webinar: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Pie-Td4cRleRKHWYRt1Zdw You may also contact Anna Haver at the Arkansas Department of Education, Office of School Health Services at (501) 683-3604.